

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Bigbee Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Christian Valley Church,

Brewersville, Sumter Co., Ala., Sept. 7, 8 & 9, 1877.

OFFICERS:

ELD. A. R. SCARBOROUGH, Moderator, Livingston, Ala.

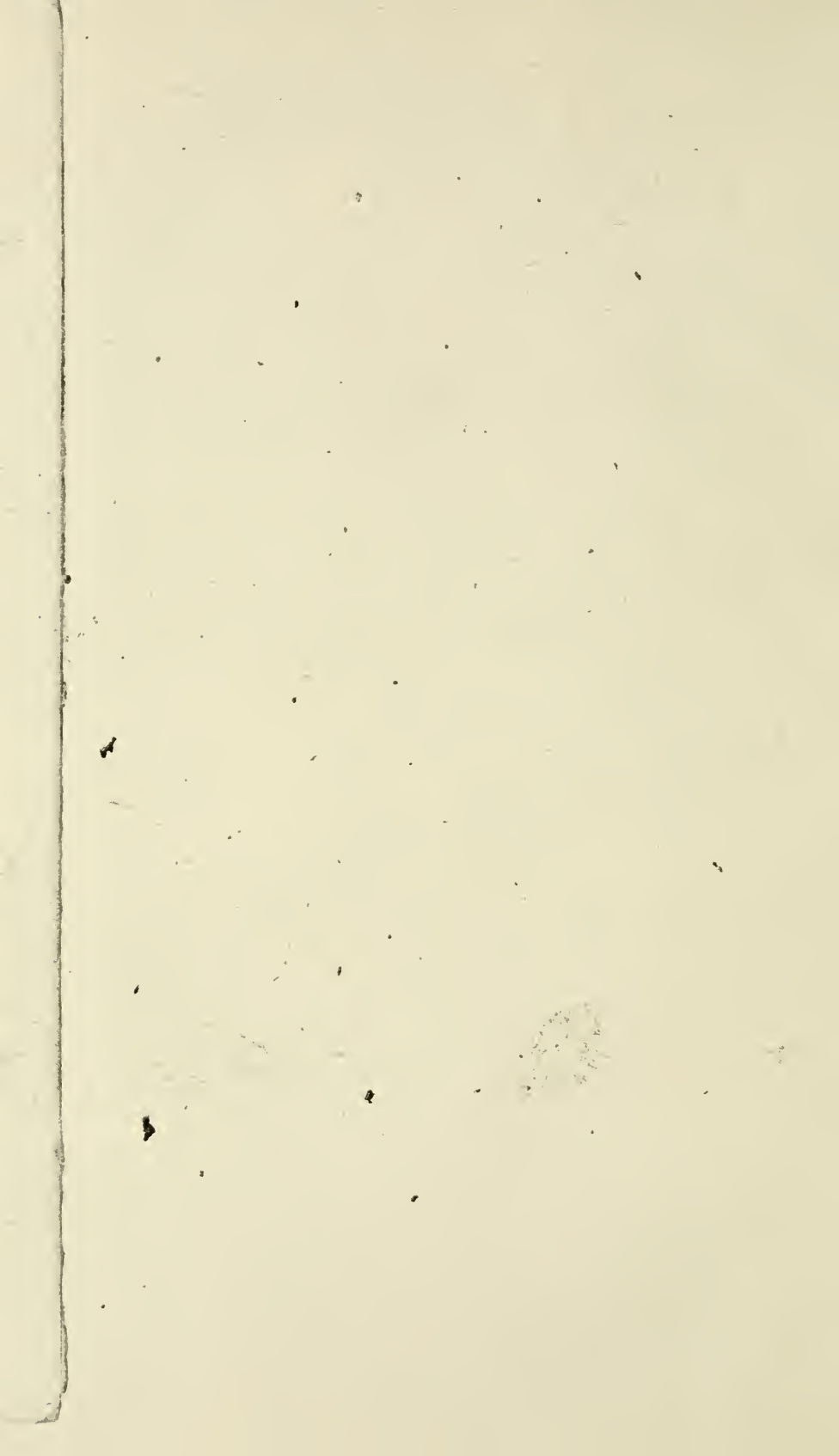
J. D. COOK, Clerk, Pushmataha, Ala.


I. C. BROWN, Treasurer, Livingston, Ala.

MARION, ALA.:

COMMONWEALTH JOB PRINT.

1877.





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2011 with funding from
Lyrasis·Members and Sloan Foundation

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Bigbee Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Christian Valley Church,

Brewersville, Sumter Co., Ala., Sept. 7, 8 & 9, 1877.

OFFICERS:

ELD. A. R. SCARBOROUGH, Moderator, Livingston, Ala.

J. D. COOK, Clerk, Pushmataha, Ala.

I. C. BROWN, Treasurer, Livingston, Ala.

MARION, ALA.:

COMMONWEALTH JOB PRINT.

1877.

LIST OF MINISTERS.

ORDAINED.

H. R. AUTREY, Livingston, Ala.	A. E. BEAVERS, Cuba Station, Ala.
F. A. FREEMAN, Walter, Ala.	B. F. HENDON, Sumterville, Ala.
W. F. POND, Cuba Station, Ala.	J. K. RYAN, Pushmataha, Ala.
A. R. SCARBOROUGH, Livingston, Ala.	H. H. STURGIS, Demopolis, Ala.
C. C. VAUGHAN, Cuba Station, Ala.	J. E. WHITE, Gainesville, Ala.

LICENTIATES.

J. D. COOK, Pushmataha, Ala.	A. P. EVANS, Cuba Station, Ala.
T. B. WOODWARD, Gaston, Ala.	

MINUTES.

CHRISTIAN VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, }
BREWERSVILLE, SUMTER Co., ALA., Sept. 7, 1877. }

The Bigbee Baptist Association convened in its twenty-fifth annual session with Christian Valley Baptist Church on Friday before the 2nd Lord's day in September, 1877.

The introductory sermon was preached by Eld. J. K. Ryan, from Matt. 6th chapter and part of the 9th verse: "Thy kingdom come."

After an intermission of an hour the Association was called to order by the Moderator, Eld. A. R. Scarborough, by singing and prayer by the Presiding Officer; immediately after which brethren I. C. Brown and Z. M. Hoyt were requested to read the letters from the churches, and the delegates enrolled as follows:

CHRISTIAN VALLEY—B. B. Seale, J. W. Blakeney, Wm. R. Rushing.

CLINTON—A. M. Pippin.

DEMOPOLIS—Not represented.

EUTAW—J. H. Wilkinson.

FELLOWSHIP—S. D. Fulford, R. L. Simmons, W. T. Simmons.

FRIENDSHIP—Eld. H. H. Sturgis—No letter.

GAINESVILLE—Elders J. E. White, L. M. Stone, and Bro. A. D.

Hall.

HICKORY HILL—C. F. Threadgill, T. B. Woodward.

HOPEWELL, SUMTER Co.—E. Arrington, J. Spidel, C. S. Coats,

R. A. Charlton.

HOPEWELL, CHOCTAW Co.—A. B. Smith.

LIVINGSTON—Eld. H. R. Autrey, A. D. Fortner, I. C. Brown, J. G. Harris.

MT. HERMON—Eld. P. G. Edmonds.

MT. MORIAH—Elders A. E. Beavers, C. C. Vaughan.

NEW PROSPECT—Eld. A. R. Scarborough, Wm. P. Brewer, L.

A. McLean, Z. M. Hoyt.

REHOBOTH—Eddie McCall, J. D. Cook.

SILOAM—G. W. Green, J. W. Altman, Elisha Woods.

STONEWALL—Not represented.

SUNTERVILLE—Eld. B. F. Hendon, F. M. Hendon.

ZION—Eld. J. K. Ryan, G. E. Brunson, W. A. Brunson.

PRAIRIE—R. D. Leavell, Grant Taylor.

CENTER—M. M. McDonald, T. F. Seale.

MT. STERLING—No delegation.

The Association then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted in the reelection of Eld. A. R. Scarborough, Moderator; J. D. Cook, Clerk; I. C. Brown, Treasurer.

Petitionary letters were then called for, and a letter was presented from Center Church, Sumter Co., Ala.; also one from Mt. Sterling, Choctaw Co., Ala. Said churches were received, and the right hand of fellowship extended to the delegates by the Moderator.

Received Correspondence as follows:

Corresponding Secretary of the State Mission Board,—Elder T. M. Bailey.

Corresponding Secretary of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention,—W. H. McIntosh, D. D.

Representative of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary,—M. T. Sumner, D. D.

Cahaba Association—T. W. Bailey.

The Moderator appointed the following Committees:

On Preaching—J. W. Altman, J. W. Blakeney, B. B. Seale, A. D. Fortner, I. C. Brown. On motion, the pastor of the church was added to the committee.

On Finance—I. C. Brown, Z. M. Hoit, E. Arrington.

On Nominations—J. H. Wilkinson, Eddie McCall, J. W. Altman.

On Correspondence—Elders J. E. White, L. M. Stone, A. E. Beavers.

The Standing Committees were filled out as follows:

On Sunday Schools—I. C. Brown, A. D. Fortner.

On Ministerial Education—Eld. B. F. Hendon, J. W. Altman.

On Missions—Eld. C. C. Vaughan, T. B. Woodward.

On Bible and Publication Cause—Elders J. K. Ryan, H. H. Sturgis.

The Committee on Preaching made the following report. Elder T. M. Bailey to preach at 8 p. m. Friday, and W. H. McIntosh, D. D., Saturday at 11 a. m. Sunday, 11 a. m., Elder J. E. White in the Baptist Church, and L. R. Gwaltney, D. D., in the Methodist Church. Sunday, 8 p. m., L. R. Gwaltney, D. D., in the Baptist Church.

Prairie Church petitioned for a letter of dismission in order to join the Union Association. The letter was granted.

The Clerk stated that there was a balance in his hands for the Minute fund of the last Association. On motion, the amount was allowed him for his services during that session.

On motion, adjourned to 9 a. m. Saturday.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock, Sept. 8, 1877.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, with singing, and prayer by M. T. Sumner, D. D.

Correspondents were received as follows:

Bethlehem Association—J. A. Pack, T. H. Webb.

Choctaw Association—H. C. Gray.

On motion, the report on Missions was made the special order for 2 P. M.

On motion, the report on Bible and Publication Cause was made the order immediately after the report on Missions.

The report on Ministerial Education was submitted, ably discussed and adopted. Appendix A.

The hour for preaching having passed, at the suggestion of Dr. McIntosh, service was postponed until 1 o'clock P. M. On motion, adjourned to that hour.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

After preaching by Dr. McIntosh, and prayer by Elder T. M. Bailey, the body proceeded to business.

The report on Missions being the special order for the hour, said report was submitted, ably discussed, and adopted after pledges were made to the "State Mission Board" as follows: G. W. Greene, \$5; Christian Valley, \$17; Fellowship, \$5; H. H. Sturgis, \$1; C. F. Threadgill, \$5; Hopewell, Sumter Co., \$10; Livingston, \$20 or more; A. E. Beavers, \$5; B. F. Hendon, \$5; J. W. Altman, \$10; J. G. Harris, \$10; J. B. Ilinton, \$1; Isaac Horn, \$2 50; F. M. Hendon, \$2 50; Mrs. High, \$2; F. J. Brown, \$1; T. B. Woodward, \$2 50; Dan McMillan, \$2; D. U. Patton, \$1; J. K. P. Rushing, \$1; T. F. Seale, \$1, paid; Martin McDonald, \$1, paid; Cash, \$2 75. Total, \$106 25.

Pledges to the "Home Mission Board," to be paid in January, 1878, as follows: B. F. Hendon, \$5; C. C. Vaughan, \$5; J. O. White, \$5; J. K. Ryan, \$5. Total, \$20 00. Appendix B.

On motion, L. R. Gwaltney, D. D., was received as a representative from the "Judson Female Institute," Marion, Ala., and invited to represent his cause.

The hour for the report on Bible and Publication Cause having arrived, the report was submitted and discussed.

On motion, adjourned to 7½ P. M.

SATURDAY NIGHT, 7½.

Opened by singing, and prayer by L. R. Gwaltney, D. D.

Discussion was resumed on Bible and Publication Cause, after which it was adopted. Appendix C.

On motion, the report on Missions was reconsidered, ably discussed, and after the pledges were made, as recorded above, adopted without any alteration.

The report on Sunday Schools was submitted, discussed and adopted. Appendix D.

The Treasurer's report was received and adopted. Appendix E.

The Committee on Nominations reported as follows:

We recommend that the next Session of the Association be held with Zion Church, Sumter County, Ala., and convene on Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in September, 1878, at 11 A. M. Elder J. E. White to preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder B. F. Hendon alternate. Elder L. M. Stone to preach at 11 A. M. on Sabbath, and Elder C. C. Vaughan alternate.

J. H. WILKERSON,
Chairman.

The following brethren were appointed delegates to the State Convention, to meet in Talladega, Thursday before the 3rd Lord's day in July, 1878: Elder C. C. Vaughan, Elder J. K. Ryan, J. G. Harris, I. C. Brown, Elder H. R. Antrey, Elder H. H. Sturgis, J. W. Altman, A. D. Fortner, J. D. Cook, Elder J. E. White, C. D. Woodruff, Z. W. Woodruff, Elder L. M. Stone, Elder B. F. Hendon.

Bro. J. H. Wilkerson was appointed as a delegate to the Union Association, Elder J. K. Ryan to the Liberty, Elder H. H. Sturgis and W. T. Simmons to the Bethel.

The following standing Committees were appointed by the Moderator :

On Sunday Schools.—Elder B. F. Hendon, I. C. Brown, C. F. Threadgill.

On Ministerial Education.—Elder L. M. Stone, Elder A. E. Beavers, Z. M. Hoit.

On Missions.—Elder J. E. White, Elder C. C. Vaughan, T. F. Seale.

On Bible and Publication Cause.—Elder H. H. Sturgis, T. B. Woodward, Martin McDonald.

On motion, adjourned to 2 P. M. Sabbath.

SUNDAY, 11 A. M., SEPT. 9TH, 1877.

Services conducted according to appointment. Amount of collection, \$16 05.

SUNDAY, 2 O'CLOCK P. M.

Opened by singing, and prayer by Elder C. C. Vaughan.

The report on Finance submitted and adopted. Appendix F.

The following resolution was offered by Elder J. E. White:

WHEREAS, Prof. L. M. Stone has assumed charge of the "Gainesville Female College" for a term of five years, which College is situated within our bounds; and whereas, Prof. Stone returns to our Association with a high record of success as an educator in our sister State, Mississippi; therefore be it

Resolved, That we heartily welcome Bro. Stone back into our midst, and most cordially recommend the "Gainesville Female College" as a suitable place for the education of our daughters in all the departments and higher classes pertaining to female education, and that on very reasonable charges.

The following resolution was offered by Elder J. K. Ryan:

Resolved, That a Special Committee be appointed by the Moderator to report on State Missions at the next Session. Resolution adopted. Whereupon the following Committee was appointed: Elder J. K. Ryan, Elder C. C. Vaughan, I. C. Brown, Elder P. G. Edmonds.

The following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are heartily given to the good citizens of Brewersville and vicinity, and members of Christian Valley Church for their beloved hospitality and kind attention to the delegates and visiting brethren during their pleasant stay among them.

Resolved, That we tender to our Methodist brethren our thanks for the use of their house of worship to-day.

On motion, the collection of the Sabbath was equally divided among the three Boards represented.

The report on Correspondence submitted and adopted. Appendix G.

On motion, the Association resolved itself into a Sunday School Mass Meeting, and was addressed by M. T. Sumner, D. D., and Elder T. M. Bailey. The Mass Meeting was then dismissed, and business resumed.

The following parting hymn was sung:

"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said—
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled," &c.

During which time the delegates and brethren gave to each other the parting hand, after which closing prayer by W. H. McIntosh, D. D.

The Association then adjourned to meet with Zion Church, Sumter County, Ala., on Saturday, at 11 A. M., before the 2nd Sabbath in September, A. D. 1878.

ELDER A. R. SCARBOROUGH,

J. D. Cook, Clerk,

Moderator.

APPENDICES.

A.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Your Committee would direct the attention of this Association to the Bible requirements, that those who are to be instructors of the people should be "apt to teach." In our opinion, in this age of the world men who preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ should be themselves instructed. This cannot be acquired but by mental and prayerful work. God has blessed us as a Denomination with valuable means of giving Theological instruction. Howard College and the Seminary which have done much for the cause, offers to all a most favorable opportunity of becoming wise and useful.

We recommend that our churches composing this Association be requested to do all in their power to give the young brethren who may be called of God to preach the Gospel, access to these fountains of learning and truth.

Respectfully submitted,

B. F. HENDON,
Chairman.

B.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your committee on Missions beg leave to report as follows :

We have been a good deal impressed with the persuasion that in our Missionary work, both at home and abroad, that in order to be successful we must enter deeply into the spirit of the primitive Christians; particularly with respect to faith in the Divine promises. May we not fear that we are deficient in this grace? When Israel went out of Egypt they greatly rejoiced on the shores of the Red Sea. But a great number of them entered not into the Promised Land because of unbelief. The great object of their undertaking was to root out idolatry, and establish the knowledge and worship of the true God. And such also is ours. They acted under the authority and command of Heaven. And ours is the same. When the Apostles were commissioned to preach the Gospel to every creature, their only hope of success was upon the Divine promises. Such also is the ground of our hope. He who has commissioned us to teach all nations, has added: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." The heathen nations are given to Christ for an inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession.

To evangelize and Christianize the world is a great work—a work in which may be expected great opposition of every character; but we should have implicit faith in Christ, and in His Word. Therefore, as God has called men to preach the Word, it is necessary to have the prayers and entire co-operation of all the churches. As "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God," then "how can the people believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how can they hear without a preacher? and how can he preach except he be sent?" Therefore we, as the people of God, are under great obligation to employ our time, talents and money, that the word of God may have free course and be glorified. We see from the religious press that much has been accomplished at the various mission stations in China, in Burma and Africa. Recently, in the Creek Nation, 17 have been baptized at Tuskegee, 10 Tulmochussee. Great good is being done by Dr. Buckner. We allude to the foregoing fields, and in doing so we have great reason to thank God and take courage. May the happy period soon come when the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the mighty deep.

The spirit of missions is the spirit of Christ. He who was rich, for our sakes became poor, that we, through his poverty, might be rich. Surely, then, no Christian should feel himself so impoverished as not to contribute of his means to the spread of the Gospel—when all the blessings of his salvation come from Christ, who was rich, then made himself poor, that sinners might have the grace of his poverty.

Respectfully submitted,

C. C. VAUGHAN,

Chairman.

C.

REPORT ON BIBLE AND PUBLICATION CAUSE.

Your Committee would first call attention to the Bible; a name given anciently by Christians to the collection of sacred writings, which constitute the standard or rule of our faith and practice; and which, at present, is divided into two parts called the Old and New Testament; the former written before, the latter, after the incarnation of our Savior. The Old Testament was written, principally, in the Hebrew; the New Testament was written in the Greek; both, however, in the language best known at that time to the church of God.

Ezra, after the return of the Jews from the Babylonish captivity, was pleased to divide the Old Testament into three distinct parts: 1st, "The Law;" 2nd, "The Prophets;" and 3rd, "The Holy Writings;" and according to the best information we can obtain, these "writings" have been translated into about 205 different languages; and proud to say the work of translation is still going on, and, no doubt, will soon find the way to every nation, tongue and people, in their own vernacular, and prove to be the "power of God unto salvation."

The accepted translation of the Old and New Testament, is King James' version, which took place, and was published in 1613, and dedicated to him the same year. We, as American Christian people have accepted it, read it, and profess to follow it. Regarding it in Light and Truth, we should employ all the powers God has given us, in extending its circulation, enforcing its truth, and vindicating its sacred honor. It unfolds to a great extent the mysteries of Godliness; it tells us of His Kingdom; it sets forth the duties of a living ministry, and presents in unvarnished truths man's responsibility, and God's willingness to act reciprocal with man in all his relative duties as an accountable being.

As Baptists have always been the first to move in the cause of Liberty and Independence, a fact proven by history, so Southern Baptists have always been jealous of rights and interests of a local character. These facts were proven in 1845, and 48, when they founded a Society in Charleston and gave it the name of "Southern Publication Society."

Times and circumstances since have undergone a material change in many respects; yet we have other publishing houses from which emanate Baptist Principles, which are being sent forth upon the world at large, exercising a power for good in indoctrinating the world in the Great principles of our denomination; and with no ordinary degree of pleasure do we look forward to the day when some Western Spiritual Gibraltar will be firmly established, that will give to the world the cherished truth of our noble and much loved denomination, and from which will flow Baptist Literature, so well calculated, by the blessings of Heaven, to prove the power of God unto salvation to all who believe.

RELIGIOUS PERIODICALS.

There are many religious periodicals in our Southern land that have strong claims upon us, many that are altogether worthy of our support.

Of these permit me to introduce three or more outside the limits of our own State: *The Baptist*, at Memphis, Tenn.; *The Southern Baptist*, at Meridian, Miss.; and Mrs. Mayfield's *Happy Home*, of Nashville, Tenn.; also the *Christian Index*, of Atlanta, Georgia. Space and prudence forbid my mentioning that long catalogue of books setting forth. Baptist Truths, and Baptist Literature, which are indoctrinating the world in the principles and practice of this great body of Christians. I regard the circulation of these inseparable with the leading spirit of the Bible, which is *Missions*, and he who co-operates with the one, co-operates with the other, and these give strength and popularity to our cause.

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

has yet stronger claims upon us as a denomination and people. Though comparatively in infancy, to-day it stands as a tower of strength, and has for its armament, Wisdom, Grace and Beauty. In others we acknowledge its equal, but not its superior. Alabama is surpassed by no State; perhaps in resources of various characters; and while these natural advantages remained undeveloped by man, the ALABAMA BAPTIST steps forth and brings to light truth long hidden in darkness. It tells of its minerals, its waters, its location, its advantages over her sister State. It has brought in intimate connection its North, its South, its East, its West, and presents our own loved State as standing unrivaled in the list of States. It helps us while in the Pulpit, at the Altar, in the social and public circle, in our families, and around our hearthstone. It points the sinner to Jesus, it presents words of comfort to the mourner, it assists in reclaiming the backslider, it builds up the Christian, and indoctrinates our churches. Let us resolve and re-resolve to place this organ of God's Truth, *our paper*; *our own paper*; *our own loved ALABAMA BAPTIST* in every family in our State.

J. K. RYAN,
Chairman.

D.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Nothing is more marked in the Religious movements of the day, than the prominence of the Sunday School. The whole Religious world seems alive to the fact that the Sunday School is the Modern Messenger before His face to prepare His way before Him. The only wonder is that Christians were so long in discerning this palpable fact.

Our Association has shared the general awakening on this subject. A few years ago there were but three Sunday School within our bounds. Now, most of the churches report schools in successful operation. This encouraging state of things is mostly due to the exertion of our State Evangelist, brother T. M. Bailey. Wherever he finds a church without its nursery, he labors to establish one; and Sunday Schools already in operation feel the influence of his zeal and energy.

There is no longer any question of the importance, the necessity of Sunday Schools. The question now is, how to obtain from them the greatest amount of good—how to secure efficient workers—how to enlist our whole membership in their service. Our Sunday Schools are too small. They should include all the members of the church, with their families, and all whom their influence can induce to engage in this good cause. The full power for good of this instrumentality can never be realized, till every Christian engage heart and hand in an earnest effort to learn and to teach “the way of the Lord more perfectly.”

Your Committee are gratified to report: Number of Sunday Schools, 16; officers and teachers, 95; scholars, 614. We would urgently recommend a more diligent and earnest work in all our churches in behalf of the Sunday School cause.

Respectfully submitted,

I. C. BROWN,

Chairman.

E.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

1876.

I. C. Brown in account with Bigbee Association,

Dr.

Oct. 2nd.—To amount received from Finance Committee, \$304 30.

Cr.

Oct. 2nd, 1876.—By amount paid Rev. T. M. Bailey

by order of Association,\$259 30

By amount paid J. D. Cook, Clerk,..... 45 00

———\$304 30

Respectfully submitted,

I. C. BROWN,

Treasurer.

F.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance ask leave to report:

Amount received for State Missions	\$141 95
“ “ “ Home “	10 20
“ “ “ Foreign Missions	9 70
“ “ “ Indian “	10 00
“ “ “ Howard College,	10 00
“ “ “ College in Indian Territory,	5 00
“ “ “ Ministerial Education,	2 50
“ “ Public collection on Sabbath,	16 05
“ “ Baptist Theological Seminary, cash & bonds,	155 00
“ “ Home Mission Board,	20 00
“ “ Printing Minutes	35 75

Total, \$416 15

We have examined the Financial report and find it correct.

I. C. BROWN,
Chairman.

G.

REPORT NO CORRESPONDENCE.

We are much gratified to find more corresponding messengers from other Sister Associations than were with us at our last meeting. There being a messenger from the Cahaba, Choctaw, and two from the Bethlehem Associations. We feel greatly profited by the presence and counsel of our brother, T. M. Bailey, secretary of the State Mission Board; also, W. H. McIntosh, D. D., secretary of the Home Mission Board, and M. T. Sumner, D. D., representative of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; also, L. R. Gwaltney, D. D., President of the Judson Female Institute. We are always glad to welcome these noble workmen of the Lord to our meetings.

We recommend that any brother or brethren from this body, bearing a copy of our minutes, be constituted a delegate to any Association he or they may attend.

Respectfully submitted,

L. M. STONE,
J. E. WHITE,
Committee.

12.25

12.25
5.25

40.63

17.8

58.43

12.25
5.25
17.8
40.63

40.63

43.20

1.35

44.55

41.20

3.35



2.00	1.00
Wp 11	1.00
James P. Smith	1.50
Cash	.50
Balance due to the	1.10
	<u>4.50</u>

Lidars	3.00
Cash	2.50
	<hr/> 5.50
	.10
	<hr/> 5.60
	4.10
	<hr/> 1.50 due to me